

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

EUR-12 /076 W

-----085485 121919Z /47

R 120659Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 417

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 13491

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KE

SUBJECT: ODINGA FINALLY SUPPORTS MOI

1. IN SEPTEMBER 10 PRESS RELEASE, HEADLINED BY MEDIA SEPTEMBER 11, LUO LEADER OGINGA ODINGA APPEALED "IN INTEREST OF COUNTRY PRESIDENT MOI SHOULD BE GIVEN CHANCE TO BE SECOND PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA." ODINGA PRAISED MOI AS EARLY NATIONALIST, EXORTED HIM TO PURSUE "POLICY OF OPEN-HEARTEDNESS TOWARDS ALL KENYANS" AND CALLED ON HIM TO "DEMOCRATICALLY REVITALIZE THE RULLING PARTY, "KANU."

2. ODINGA'S SON-IN-LAW AND CLOSE ADVISOR, OTIENO AMBALA, CONFIDED TO POLOFF THAT MOI RECEIVED ODINGA FOR SOME TEN MINUTES EVENING SEPTEMBER 10 FOR PRIVATE CONVERSATION. AMBALA ADDED THIS MEETING WOULD NOT BE ANNOUNCED. AMBALA CONTINUED THAT ODINGA WAS NOT ONLY INTERESTED IN GETTING MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO MOI BUT THAT HE WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT LUO SUPPORT CONDITIONAL UPON EXPECTATION LUOS WOULD BE ACCORDED RIGHTFUL POLITICAL ROLE IN FUTURE. AMBALA ADDED THAT TARDINESS OF ODINGA'S PLEDGE OF SUPPORT MEANT TO SHOW LUOS COULD NOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED. HOWEVER, ACTIVE LUO MP ONYANGO MIDIKA, CLOSE TO ODINGA GROUP, HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD POLOFF THAT HE AND OTHERS HAD BEEN URGING OFINGA FOR SOMETIME  
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TO MAKE SUCH STATEMENT.

3. BOTH SOURCES CITED ABOVE CONFIRMED THAT FAMILY GROUPING (MINSTATE KOINANGE AND GEMA SECRETARY GENERAL KARUME) HAD MADE CONTACT WITH ODINGA CAMP TO DISCUSS FUTURE COOPERATION BUT THAT OFFER HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN AS ODINGA FORCES ASSESSED FAMILY WAS UNPOPULAR

AND HAD NO POLITICAL FUTURE.

4. AMBALA TOLD OF SOME STRONG-ARM TACTICS BY SOME MOI PEOPLE AGAINST LUO POLITICIANS IMMEDIATELY AFTER KENYATTA'S DEATH, BUT ADMITTED SITUATION HAS CALMED. BOTH AMBALA AND MIDIKA STRESSED THAT ODINGA FORCES WANTED TO CONVINCE MOI OF WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH HIM AND ARE SEARCHING FOR CREDIBLE EMISSARY TO GET THIS MESSAGE ACROSS. BOTH CONFESSED FEARS THAT NJONJO, WHOM THEY CLAIM HAS ENORMOUS INFLUENCE ON MOI, WOULD ATTEMPT BY ALL MEANS TO BLOCK SUCH EFFORT.

5. MIDIKA MADE INTERESTING COMMENT THAT ONLY REAL HOPE FOR FUTURE LUO INVOLVEMENT IN NATIONAL POLITICS WOULD HAVE TO BE AT THE EXPENSE OF PHASING OUT ODINGA. AMBALA CONFIDED THAT HE HAS GOTTEN ODINGA TO CLEAR ALL HIS STATEMENTS WITH HIM AS HE IS APT TO GO OFF HALF COCKED AND DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

6. BOTH AMBALA AND MIDIKA SAID GOODWILL GESTURE BY MOI TOWARD LUOS SHOULD INVOLVE REPLACING NYANZA PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER CHELEGET AND EASING OUT "ESTABLISHMENT" LUO MINISTERS OKERO, OGUTU AND ROBERT OUKO WHO DO NOT REPRESENT LUO PEOPLE.

7. AMBALA SAID THERE WAS RUMOR CIRCULATING THAT U.S. WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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INSISTING ON KIBAKI AS VP WHILE BRITISH WERE PRESSING FOR LUO CANDIDATE. EMBOFF ASSURED HIM U.S. WAS NOT BACKING KIBAKI OR ANY OTHER CANDIDATE AS THIS WAS PURELY KENYAN AFFAIR.

8. COMMENT: WHILE LUO LEADERSHIP HAS PUBLICLY COME OUT IN SUPPORT OF MOI, IT CLEAR THAT LUOS EXPECT SOME QUID PRO QUO AND ARE FEARFUL THAT NJONJO, AS POWER BEHIND MOI, WILL BLOCK ANY ACCOMMODATION TOWARD THEM. IT EXTREMELY INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT YOUNGER LUO POLITICIANS SUCH AS AMBALA AND MIDIKA HAVE COME TO REALIZE THAT ODINGA IS NOW A HINDRANCE TO LUO POLITICAL REHABILITATION. THEY HAVE SPENT MANY YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS WITH ODINGA AND NOW HOPE THAT AN OPENING FOR THEM MAY BE CLOSE TO HAND, IF THEY CAN RID THEMSELVES OF THE ODINGA LIABILITY. HOWEVER, WHAT STRENGTH THE LUOS MAY HAVE WITHOUT THE CHASMATIC ODINGA REMAINS TO BE SEEN.  
LE MELLE

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## Message Attributes

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